

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5586

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 00231

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR US

SUBJECT: BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

REF: STATE 001892

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES RECEIVED ME AT L0:30 MONDAY MORNING FOR AN UNHURRIED AND RELAXED DISCUSSION OF THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW PURSUANT TO YOUR INSTRUCTION TRANSMITTED REFTEL. I FOUND SAUVAGNARGUES TO BE COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDING OF THE POINTS I MADE ON YOUR BEHALF, AND HE ACCEPTED WITHOUT QUESTION THE FACT THAT THE QUOTATIONS ABOUT EUROPE IN REFTEL WERE STRICTLY IN THE PAST TENSE. HE ALSO AGREED THAT NO EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AND ESPECIALLY NO FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD EXPRESSED ANY OF THE POINTS MADE BY BUSINESS WEEK'S ALLEGED "EUROPEAN SOURCES."

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2. SAUVAGNARGUES THEN FOCUSED ON THE SECTION OF THE

ARTICLE DEALING WITH THE THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE OIL PRODUCING AREAS, A SUBJECT WHICH HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS PLAY HERE. HE SAID THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD ABSOLUTELY NO COMPLAINTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR STATEMENT TO BUSINESS WEEK. SAUVAGNARGUES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHAT YOU SAID CAREFULLY AND ACCURATELY DESCRIBES THE TRUE SITUATION. CLEARLY, NO MILITARY ACTION CAN OR SHOULD BE CONTEMPLATED WITH RESPECT TO THE PROBLEM OF OIL PRICES, BUT A GREAT POWER LIKE THE UNITED STATES COULD NEVER PLACE ITSELF IN A POSITION OF FORECLOSING MILITARY ACTION UNDER ALL CONCEIVABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. IN CONCLUSION, SAUVAGNARGUES PURSUED THE SAME LINE THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND HE TOOK IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ME AT THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS FRIDAY NIGHT. THEY BOTH EMPHASIZED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED AT THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT, AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO CARRY OUT THE AGREED COURSES OF ACTION. BOTH GISCARD FRIDAY NIGHT AND SAUVAGNARGUES THIS MORNING STRESSED THEIR WARM FEELINGS OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP TOWARD PRESIDENT FORD AND YOURSELF.

4. COMMENT: THE CLARIFICATION OF THE MAGAZINE ARTICLE WAS USEFUL IN ASSURING THERE IS NO EROSION OF THE EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS CREATED BY THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT.

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